

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 OES-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 HEW-04 AID-05 /074 W

----- 106456

R 031234Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8171

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 13058

CALCUTTA 2186 FOLLOWS. SENTO TO NEW DELHI FOR ACTION ON 3 SEP 76.
BEING RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 2186

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, IN

SUBJ: MORE ON COMPULSORY STERILIZATION

REF: NEW DELHI 12972

1. THE PRESS REPORTS FROM CALCUTTA, CITED IN PARA 2
OF REFTTEL, SHOULD BE VIEWED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF
THE DISTURBANCES THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE MOSLEM QUARTERS
OF CALCUTTA TWO WEEKS AGO OVER COMPULSORY STERILIZATION.
FOLLOWING THESE DISTURBANCES, MOSLEM COMMUNITY AND
CONGRESS NOTABLES WERE MOBILIZED FOR A PUBLIC RELATIONS
CAMPAIGN AIMED AT REASSURING THE COMMUNITY; ONE FACET
OF THIS CAMPAIGN WAS THE SPREADING OF THE WORD THAT
MOSLEMS HAVE RESPONDED WELL TO THE FAMILY PLANNING
PROGRAM.

2. CONGEN OF COURSE HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING PRECISELY
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HOW ACCURATE THESE CLAIMS ARE. BUT THE STORY WE HEAR

IS THAT THE ORDINARY UNEDUCATED MOSLEMS IN CALCUTTA
(AND THEY ARE THE MAJORITY) ARE FRIGHTENED OUT OF
THEIR WITS BY THE IDEA OF MALE STERILIZATION, WHICH
THEY CONFUSE WITH CASTRATION, AND THAT MOST MOSLEM
RELIGIOUS LEADERS ARE OPPOSED IN ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER
TO FAMILY PLANNING PRACTICES. THIS MAY BE EXAGGERATED,
BUT PROBABLY NO MORE SO THAN THE OFFICIAL CLAIMS OF
WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE.

KORN

UNQUOTE

SAXBE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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